

List of Claims

1. (currently amended) A filter assembly comprising:
a center support having a filter head attachment adjacent one end for rotatable attachment to and detachment from a filter head, a bowl attachment adjacent an opposite end for rotatable attachment to and detachment from a bowl, and a plurality of radial openings disposed in said center support and being located between said ends; and
a metallic screen filter element mounted around said center support.
2. (currently amended) The filter assembly of claim 1 including a bowl attached to said bowl attachment, and the bowl being rotatable with respect to the bowl attachment between an attached position and a detached position; and
said metallic filter element being surrounded by said bowl.
3. (currently amended) The filter assembly of claim 2 including a filter head attached to said filter head attachment, and the filter head attachment being rotatable with respect to the filter head between an attached position and a detached position; and
an annular seal between said bowl and said filter head.
4. (original) The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support includes a plastic center tube.
5. (original) The filter assembly of claim 4 including a first end cap in contact with said metallic screen and said center support adjacent said one end; and
a second end cap in contact with said metallic screen and said center support adjacent said opposite end.
6. (original) The filter assembly of claim 5 wherein said first and second end caps are removably attached to said center support.

7. (original) The filter assembly of claim 1 including a hydrophobic coating on said metallic screen filter element.

8. (original) The filter assembly of claim 3 wherein said center support is permanently affixed to said metallic screen filter element;

whereby said center support is necessary for connecting said bowl in sealing contact with said filter head.

9. (currently amended) A plurality of engines comprising:

a first engine including a filter assembly comprising a center support having a filter head attachment adjacent one end for rotatable attachment to and detachment from a filter head, a bowl attachment adjacent an opposite end for rotatable attachment to and detachment from a bowl, and a plurality of radial openings disposed in said center support and being located between said ends, and a metallic screen filter element mounted around said center support; and

a second engine including a filter assembly identical to the filter assembly of the first engine, except with a paper filter element substituted in place of the metallic screen filter element.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The engines of claim 10 wherein each of the filter assemblies includes an identical center tube.

12. (currently amended) A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:

detaching a center support from a filter head at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the filter head;

detaching the center support from a bowl at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the bowl;

washing a metallic screen filter element which is attached to the center support;

re-attaching the center support to the bowl at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the bowl; and

re-attaching the center support to the filter head at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the filter head.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said washing step includes the steps of:

detaching the metallic screen filter element from the center support;

cleaning the metallic screen filter element; and

re-attaching the metallic screen filter element to a center support.

14. (currently amended) A method of servicing a filtration portion of a fluid system for an engine, comprising the steps of:

detaching a center support from a filter head at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the filter head;

detaching the center support, which is attached to one of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, from a bowl at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the bowl;

attaching a replacement center support, which is attached to an other of a paper filter element and a metallic screen filter element, to the bowl at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the bowl; and

attaching the replacement center support to the filter head at least in part by rotating the center support relative to the filter head.